UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/541
19 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 88 (i)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present progress report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993, entitled "United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation". In that resolution, the Assembly decided that an ad hoc panel of distinguished experts and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to be known as the "United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation", funded from within existing resources and supported by voluntary contributions, should be appointed to conduct a comprehensive study on opportunity and participation for the economic and social advancement of all peoples, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to appoint the members of the Panel from lists of experts within the United Nations system, in particular members of the Committee for Development Planning, taking into account the outcome of discussions on Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/81 of 30 July 1993 and the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992. The report of the Panel should be completed in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

3. On 13 July 1994, the Secretary-General received two cheques in response to the request for voluntary contributions contained in General Assembly resolution 48/60. One cheque for $40,000 is the first instalment of a pledged contribution of $100,000 from the Government of Papua New Guinea for activities to be undertaken by the United Nations under resolution 48/60. Another cheque of

$5,000 was from the Federated States of Micronesia for the same purpose. The two cheques have been deposited for credit to the United Nations Trust Fund for Development Planning and Projections.

4. The Secretariat has identified a number of provisional themes for papers to be prepared by consultants as inputs to the deliberations of the Panel as follows: (a) opportunity and participation in economic development: recent experience and policy options; (b) creating an enabling policy environment for small enterprise development; (c) improving access to credit for small-scale entrepreneurs, especially women; (d) promoting export-oriented small enterprises; (e) promoting technology-based small enterprises; (f) institution-building for disadvantaged groups; (g) promoting start-up micro-enterprises among the poor; (h) encouraging women entrepreneurs; and (i) donor support for opportunity and participation in economic development.

5. On the basis of the funds received thus far and on the expectation of the additional contribution pledged by the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Secretariat has begun the process of ascertaining the availability of consultants to prepare papers on the themes mentioned above.

6. Regarding the composition of the Panel, the Secretariat is awaiting the outcome of the discussions on Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/81, referred to above, as well as on draft resolution E/1993/L.46, which is still pending before the Council since the "existing resources" referred to in General Assembly resolution 48/60 would be those provided for the Committee for Development Planning in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

III. PROPOSED TIMETABLE

7. The proposed timetable for implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/60 is as follows:

	1994
October-November	Completion of consultations with interested Member States on themes for consultant papers and the composition of the Panel
December	Issuing of special service agreements with consultants
	1995
April	Completion of consultants' papers
May	Convening of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation
June	Submission of the report of the Panel to the Economic and Social Council
July	Submission of the report of the Panel to the General Assembly

---